

Ms. Lois M. Gibbs:

Thank you for your September 25, 2014, letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. The administrator asked me to contact you on her behalf regarding the complex efforts underway to ensure protection of the communities surrounding the Westlake Landfill Superfund Site.

I understand you will be in St. Louis this weekend. Welcome to the Heartland. I regret that I am unable to visit with you there but my schedule isn't open at this point. Given the importance of an informed public, I expect the Center for Health, Environment and Justice would agree that providing accurate and factual information to the public must be a top priority. In the interest of ensuring you have the most accurate information available, I would like to invite you to visit with me between October 14 and 17, either here in Kansas City or, if it is more convenient, by audio or video teleconference.

While we may see the work there differently, we both clearly agree that it is vital to protect the public from the radiological material at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. EPA Region 7 is leading a concurrent effort to establish a final remedy for the site while we support the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' efforts to find a solution to the subsurface smoldering event in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill.

To that end, I reiterate that based upon all scientific information available to EPA the site remains protective of public health. We continue collecting information and data needed to evaluate alternatives in accordance with the National Contingency Plan, and to select the final remedy to ensure the protection of public health into the future.

I look forward to meeting with you so that we can discuss the facts and dispel any myths surrounding the site. I will share with you what EPA is doing to ensure the responsible parties take actions to protect public health into the future. I am particularly interested to hear your ideas about how we can work together moving forward to achieve a more informed and protected public.

Karl Brooks